

What is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)?



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NEPA is federal legislation that establishes environmental policy for the nation. It provides an interdisciplinary framework for federal agencies to prevent environmental damage and contains “action-forcing” procedures to ensure that federal agency decision-makers take environmental factors into account. This project will produce a NEPA Document because Federal Funds will be used.

What is an Environmental Document?

An Environmental Document (Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) is a detailed statement required by NEPA. It is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences and take action to protect the environment. NEPA documents require a Purpose and Need statement to guide the proposed action.

What is a Purpose and Need statement?

The purpose and need statement:

- Defines the problem and clarifies the outcome
- Guides the development of a reasonable range of alternatives
- Develops criteria to measure the alternative solutions
- Justifies alternatives moved forward during the screening process



The Purpose and Need statement is being developed.